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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/733,087	12/11/2000	Fumitaka Murayama	001636	1950

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EXAMINER
MAURO JR, THOMAS J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2143	2

DATE MAILED: 03/31/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

-- *The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address* --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _11 December 2000_.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.　　2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) _1-7_ is/are pending in the application.

　　4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) _1-7_ is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on _11 December 2000_ is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

　　Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

　　Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

　　a)☒ All　b)☐ Some *　c)☐ None of:

　　　　1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

　　　　2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

　　　　3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

　　* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
　　Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
　　Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   Claims 1-7 are pending and are presented for examination.   A formal action on the

merits of claim 1-7 follows.

Priority

2.   The effective filing date for the subject matter defined in the pending claims in this

application is 8/9/2000.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the

basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4.   Claims 1, 3 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Schreiber et

al. (U.S. 6,209,103).

With respect to claim 1, Schreiber teaches a method of providing character contents in

the form of images, comprising:

(a)   a first step of transmitting a request for retrieval of character contents from a

client terminal to a contents providing system, the contents providing system and client terminal

being connected through a network such that they can communicate with each other **[Schreiber -**

- Figure 1 and Col. 5 lines 14-20 and lines 22-27 – Client and server are connected over a

network, i.e. the Internet, upon which the client transmits requests through a web browser

for textual information, i.e. character content, such as documents or articles];

(b)   a second step of searching storage means of the contents providing system to read

the requested character contents, the storage means storing the character contents as character

data **[Schreiber -- Figure 1 and Col. 5 lines 28-32 and lines 37-40 – Server stores textual**

information in a storage area, which upon receiving the request from the client,

determines, i.e. searches, whether the information is available and whether it is in an area

accessible or not accessible to the client];

(c)   a third step of converting the read character contents from character data to image

data **[Schreiber -- Figure 3 and Col. 5 lines 40-49 – Textual information is rendered into a**

"non-text editable" format by rendering the text into a special graphical format, such as

GIF or JPEG, i.e. image data]; and

(d)   a fourth step of transmitting the image data as a result of the conversion of the

character contents to the client terminal **[Schreiber -- Figure 3 and Col. 5 lines 51-55 – After**

rendering to graphical format is complete, server sends non-text editable, i.e. graphical,

information over network to client].

With respect to claim 3, Schreiber teaches a system for providing character contents in

the form of images, comprising:

(a)   a contents providing system connected to a client terminal through a network such that they can communicate with each other **[Schreiber -- Figure 1 and Col. 5 lines 14-20 and lines 28-32 – Client and server are connected over a network, i.e. the Internet., upon which the server stores textual information]**;

(b)   storage means disposed in a server of the contents providing system for storing character contents as character data **[Schreiber -- Figure 1 and Col. 5 lines 19-21 and lines 28-33 – Server contains storage areas for storing textual information, i.e. character data]**;

(c)   search means provided at the server for searching the storage means when there is a request for retrieval of character contents from the client terminal to read the requested character contents **[Schreiber -- Figure 1 and Col. 5 lines 22-32 and lines 37-40 – Client transmits requests through a web browser to server for textual information, i.e. character content, such as documents or articles Server stores textual information in a storage area, which upon receiving the request from the client, determines, i.e. searches, whether the information is available and whether it is in an area accessible or not accessible to the client]**;

(d)   conversion means provided at the server for dynamically converting the read character contents from character data to image data **[Schreiber -- Figure 3 and Col. 5 lines 40-49 – Textual information is rendered into a "non-text editable" format by rendering the text into a special graphical format, such as GIF or JPEG, i.e. image data]**; and

(e)   contents information transmission means provided at the server for transmitting the image data as a result of the conversion of the character contents to the client terminal

[Schreiber -- Figure 3 and Col. 5 lines 51-55 – After rendering to graphical format is

complete, server sends non-text editable, i.e. graphical, information over network to client].

Regarding claim 7, Schreiber further teaches wherein a WWW server is provided in the

server and wherein the contents information transmission means is provided in the WWW server

[Schreiber -- Figure 3 and Col. 5 lines 14-21 and lines 24-26 – Requests from client are

made over the Internet by accessing a World Wide Web page using a browser. The server

being accessed which provides and transmits the contents serves the page to the client

making it a WWW server].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in
> section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are
> such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person
> having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the
> manner in which the invention was made.

6.   Claims 2 and 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Schreiber et al. (U.S. U.S. 6,209,103), as applied to claims 1, 3 and 5 above respectively, in view

of Schreiber et al. (U.S. 6,298,446).

Regarding claim 2, Schreiber (U.S. 6,209,103) teaches the invention substantially as

claimed, as aforementioned in claim 1 above, including converting textual information into

graphical information **[Schreiber -- Figure 3 and Col. 5 lines 40-49 – Textual information is

rendered into a "non-text editable" format by rendering the text into a special graphical

format, such as GIF or JPEG, i.e. image data]**, but fails to explicitly teach determining

whether the information needs to be protected, i.e. converted to image data.

Schreiber (U.S. 6,298,446), however, teaches a system for protecting the copying or reuse of

graphical images or textual information which provides a protection manager to specify whether

the information is to be protected on an individual by individual basis **[Schreiber (U.S.

6,298,446) -- Figure 2 item 212, Col. 8 lines 35-67, Col. 11 lines 27-30, Col. 12 lines 3-11 and

Col. 33 lines 5-15 – Server determines if information is protected by searching protection

database. If information is protected, routine is run to protect information; otherwise,

information is transmitted normally with no protection. This type of individual basis

protection can be applied to image or text content]**.

Both Schreiber (U.S. 6,209,103) and Schreiber (U.S. 6,298,446) disclose methods for protecting

text and images transmitted over a network from reuse or copying.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention

was made to incorporate the determining of whether information needs to be protected, as taught

by Schreiber (U.S. 6,298,446) into the text and image reuse prevention system of Schreiber (U.S.

6,209,103), in order to give the administrator more control over the system to allow them to

decide which information needs to be protected or which information they want protected.

Regarding claim 4, this is a system claim corresponding to the method claimed in claim

2. It has similar limitations; therefore claim 4 is rejected under the same rationale.

Regarding claim 5, Schreiber (U.S. 6,209,103) teaches the invention substantially as

claimed, as aforementioned in claim 3 above, including wherein the client terminal and the

server of the contents providing system are connected to the internet [**Schreiber -- Figure 3 and**

Col. 5 lines 14-19 – Client and server are connected through a network which is the

Schreiber (U.S. 6,209,103) fails to teach that a front server and a back server connected to the

Internet are provided in the server along with a database for storage.

Schreiber (U.S. 6,298,446), however, teaches a separate Web server area (102), i.e. front server

in server (100) which the user has access to and from which requests are made and content is

dynamically protected [**Schreiber (U.S. 6,298,446) -- Figure 1, Col. 9 lines 22-24 and lines 53-**

60 and Col. 10 lines 3-11 – Clients request information through http request module (114)

and content is modified by webpage parser (116) and modifier (122)]. Additionally, the back

server is the remaining area of the server that the client does not have access to, i.e. the databases

and other stored information [**Schreiber (U.S. 6,298,446) -- Figure 1 and Col. 9 lines 24-31**

and lines 61-67 – Actual web pages (104) along with the database (118) and images stored

on server (108 and 110) are in the back server, an area inaccessible to clients]. Also,

Schreiber teaches the use of a database to store information [**Schreiber (U.S. 6,298,446) --**

Figure 1 and Col. 9 lines 61-63].

Databases were notoriously well known at the time of the invention as a practical and easy way

to store information.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention

was made to incorporate the implementation of a front server and back server along with a

database, as taught by Schreiber (U.S. 6,298,446) as parts of the server and the storage means

[Schreiber (U.S. 6,209,103) -- Col. 5 lines 19-21 and lines 28-32] of Schreiber (U.S.

6,209,103), in order to provide a structured server which provides security to content stored on

the server by only allowing client access to the front server while protecting other non-public

files and information on the back server in addition to using a well-known and practical structure

to store data.

Regarding claim 6, Schreiber (U.S. 6,209,103)-Schreiber (U.S. 6,298,446) teach the

invention substantially as claimed, as aforementioned in claim 5 above, wherein the search

means and conversion means are provided in the front server **[Schreiber (U.S. 6,298,446) --**

Figure 1, Col. 9 lines 53-60 and Col. 10 lines 3-11 – Web server area (item 102) of server

(100) is responsible for receiving the http request (114) which then filters and searches for

document/page. Furthermore, web server area (102) is also responsible for parsing (116)

and modifying (122) the webpage, i.e. conversion].

Conclusion

7.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's

disclosure.

-      Nguyen (U.S. 6,032,150) discloses a method and system for presenting information in

    a web document which restricts copying or redistribution of the content.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Thomas J. Mauro Jr. whose telephone number is 703-605-1234.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00a.m. - 4:30p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, David A. Wiley can be reached on 703-308-5221. The fax phone number for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TJM
March 24, 2004

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